

The Act provides the states and certain territories with formula funding to support state-designated institutions' cooperative forestry research programs. The funding available under this Act assists the states and territories in carrying out forestry research programs at state forestry schools and colleges and developing a trained pool of forest scientists capable of conducting needed forestry research.

District of Columbia residents pay full federal taxes, and with few exceptions, the District is treated as a state under federal programs. This Act defines "State" to include Puerto Rico, the Virgin Islands and Guam, whose residents do not pay full federal taxes. The District's absence from the Act makes it ineligible for federal funding that would support research at the District's public university, the University of the District of Columbia (UDC). The College of Agriculture, Urban Sustainability and Environmental Sciences at UDC, the nation's only urban land-grant university, offers programs that complement D.C.'s ongoing forestry efforts and serve individuals in my district and beyond. Rectifying the District's exclusion from this Act would ensure its equitable treatment and provide UDC a fair share of resources.

The District should be eligible under this Act just like the states and territories. This bill would allow students and researchers in the nation's capital to benefit from this important forestry program. I urge support for this bill.

RECOGNIZING THE RETIREMENT OF MR. JOHN SCHOUTEN

HON. DAVID G. VALADAO

OF CALIFORNIA

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Thursday, January 6, 2022

Mr. VALADAO. Madam Speaker, I rise today to honor Mr. John Schouten for his contributions to the dairy industry and congratulate him on his retirement.

John Schouten's passion for the dairy industry started over 35 years ago and led him to World Wide Sires, which started out in Hanford, California. He completed German language school shortly after starting and quickly built relationships in the international dairy scene that would last decades. His enthusiasm and desire to put farmers first has created numerous opportunities for U.S. genetics worldwide.

While at World Wide Sires, Mr. Schouten became known for his remarkable work ethic and empathy for others. He started as an Area Director of Marketing and went on to become VP of Marketing from 1993 to 2001, eventually becoming CEO in 2001. Mr. Schouten's leadership allowed his team to grow as they traveled to over 70 countries, sharing their knowledge and helping farmers.

Mr. Schouten became CEO at a time of rapid growth and change in the industry. Thanks to his vision, his team launched Global Dairy Solutions along with setting up six global subsidiaries. Mr. Schouten has set a great example of what hard work and compassion can accomplish. His energy to keep innovating has led him to become one of the most recognized and respected members of the U.S. AI community.

I ask my colleagues in the House of Representatives to join me in recognizing Mr. John

Schouten for his contributions to the dairy industry and wishing him the best in retirement.

IN RECOGNITION OF ROBIN HEBERT

HON. RICK LARSEN

OF WASHINGTON

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Thursday, January 6, 2022

Mr. LARSEN of Washington. Madam Speaker, I rise to honor the life of Robin Hebert. Robin was a beloved wife and a Gold Star mother.

She passed away on September 13, 2021, after an extended battle with bone marrow cancer at age 63.

Robin was an active and compassionate member of her community.

On August 1, 2003, Robin lost her son, Army Specialist Justin Hebert when his vehicle was struck by a rocket-propelled grenade in Kirkuk, Iraq.

Robin fought her battle with cancer with the same honor and courage as Justin.

Robin volunteered as a trial patient for an experimental bone marrow transplant. While she could not donate her organs, she proudly donated her information to researchers to save lives even after she passed.

Robin will be remembered by friends and family for her resilience and tenacity. She will be missed greatly.

HONORING AND COMMENDING THE WONDERFUL LIFE OF VERA ELIZABETH "RITCHIE" BERTSCHE, ON HER 100TH BIRTH- DAY

HON. PAT FALLON

OF TEXAS

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Thursday, January 6, 2022

Mr. FALLON. Madam Speaker, I rise today to honor and commend the wonderful Mrs. Verna Elizabeth "Ritchie" Bertsche. Verna Elizabeth was born on December 28, 1921, in the era of the Great Depression, and during the presidency of Warren G. Harding. She grew up during the time of the roaring twenties and during prohibition.

Ritchie excelled in her academic studies, graduating from the University of Cincinnati, where she was also chosen to serve as president of her sorority, Zeta Tau Alpha. She married a decorated officer, Carl I. Bertsche, who served in Europe during World War II, having known him since their kindergarten days. She enjoyed her time serving as a pre-school teacher, before her children came along, and then worked part-time in Carl's business, PESCO, where she made a hugely valuable contribution in both an official and unofficial capacity. Well-known in her community as a dedicated volunteer, she has selflessly given 20 years of service at the Good Samaritan Hospital.

In addition to her service to her community, she has been a generous, loving, and supportive mother to her two children, Patricia B. Deis-Gleeson (who shares Verna's birthday), and Carl I. Bertsche Jr, both of whom are proud to call her Mom. Greater still are her

five grandchildren and seven great-grandchildren, to whom she is always showing a genuine and proud interest in their lives and achievements.

Verna's wonderful memories of Jeeme Hipad, a club consisting of Doie and Bob Stacy, Betty and Nick Weisgarber, Helen and Bob Dhonau, Verna and Carl Bertsche, and Dottie and Phil Spiess. The club's name derives from the letters of their middle names and all the ladies in the club are also members of Zeta Tau Alpha. The club began meeting just for fun but ended up meeting right through the remainder of many of their lives. Jeeme Hipad activities encompassed World War II, the growth of their families, adapting to empty nest syndrome, right through to the passing of their spouses. A truly unique and special group.

I have requested the United States flag be flown over our Nation's Capitol to recognize Verna Elizabeth "Ritchie" Bertsche's devotion to all that is good and wholesome in this life. May God bless Verna on her 100th Birthday.

RECOGNIZING MR. SEAN MULLIN

HON. JOHN GARAMENDI

OF CALIFORNIA

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Thursday, January 6, 2022

Mr. GARAMENDI. Madam Speaker, I rise today in recognition and appreciation of Mr. Sean Mullin, upon his completion of the National Oceanic and Atmospheric Administration's (NOAA) John A. Knauss Marine Policy Fellowship Program. Mr. Mullin served as a Knauss fellow in my Washington, D.C., office during the 2021 calendar year.

As an integral member of my legislative staff, Mr. Mullin assisted my work on the House Committee on Transportation and Infrastructure, particularly my work on the Subcommittee on Water Resources and Environment and the Subcommittee on Economic Development, Public Buildings, and Emergency Management pertaining to natural disasters. Over this past year, he worked closely with my personal office staff in developing several pieces of legislation. He revamped my "Wildlife Conservation and Anti-Trafficking Act" from previous Congresses into bipartisan legislation (H.R. 6059) I reintroduced on November 19, 2021. He also developed the "End Palm Oil Deforestation Act" (H.R. 5863) from an outline into actual legislation and reworked the "Stop the Spread of Invasive Mussels Act of 2021" (H.R. 5692), of which I assumed sponsorship from former Congressman Ben McAdams (D-UT).

Mr. Mullin received his doctorate in geobiology from the California Institute of Technology in 2020, and graduated from the University of California, Berkeley with a Bachelor of Science in microbial biology in 2011. While his fellowship with my office has ended, I am very pleased that Mr. Mullin's public service with California's Congressional delegation will continue as he joins the office of U.S. Senator DIANNE FEINSTEIN (D-CA).

I have no doubt that Mr. Mullin's innate curiosity and aptitude for navigating complex policy problems to develop actionable solutions will serve him well in this new role. Mr. Mullin will remain a deeply valued member of Team Garamendi, and we look forward to continuing to work with him.